Coal and lignite reserves in the country

1127. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated reserves of coal and lignite in the country at present;

(b) the requirement of coal and lignite annually;

(c) whether aiming for a gross domestic product growth of seven-eight per cent, Coal India Ltd. and Neyveli Lignite Corporation propose to increase their production;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government are keen on investing in frontier technologies such as exploration of coal bed methane and underground coal gasification; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The estimated coal resources in the country are 247846.85 million tonnes as assessed by Geological Survey of India as on 1.1.2005. The estimated reserves of lignite in the country as on 1.4.2005 are 37154 million tonnes.

(b) The all India coal demand in 2005-2006 as finalized by the Planning Commission is 445.65 million tonnes and the requirement of lignite for Neyveli Lignite Corporation's (NLC) operation is 20.4 million tonnes for the year 2005-06.

(c) and (d) Coal India Limited (CIL) produced 323.63 million tonnes raw coal (provisional) in 2004-05. During Mid-Term Appraisal the targets for CIL has been revised upward to 373.00 million tonnes, for the terminal year of X Plan (2006-07) as compared to earlier projection of 350.00 million tonnes made by the Working Group on Coal & Lignite, working out to a cumulative aggregate growth rate (CAGR) of 5.36% as against 4.59% projected earlier.

NLC has also programmed to increase the lignite production from the projected production level of 20.40 million tonnes in 2005-06. With the sanctioning of expansion of Mine-II from 10.5 million tonnes per annum to 15 million tonnes per annum and sanctioning of a new mine of 2.1 million tonnes per annum at Barsingsar, NLC's lignite mining capacity is projected to increase from the present level of 24 million tonnes per annum to 30.6 million tonnes per annum by 2009-10.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Details of activities for promotion of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) and Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) are given as under:—

In order to harness CBM potential in the country, Government formulated a CBM policy in 1997. A total of 16 CBM blocks have been awarded so far (3 on nomination basis, 5 under CBM-I round and 8 under CBM-II round) for exploration and production of CBM. In addition, a demonstration project named Coal Bed Methane Recovery & Commercial Utilization has been taken up in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project has been sanctioned by Government of India in September, 1999 and is under implementation at Sudamdih and Moonidih mines at BCCL.

CIL and ONGC have decided to take up project for establishing UCG technology. A draft MOU has already been approved by Board of Directors of CIL. Initial work of data exchange needed for identification of trial site has already been taken up.

NLC proposes to take up a UCG project in a suitable lignite block in Rajasthan under Ministry of Coal's S & T programme and Department of Science & Technology funding at a total cost of Rs. 1125 lakhs.

Jobs in SECL in lieu of land acquisition

†1128. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people provided with jobs in SECL, Chhattisgarh in lieu of the land acquired from them;

(b) the Khasra number, the name of village, Tehsil and District of the land in lieu of which jobs have been provided to the said people; and

(c) the details thereof, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) In South Eastern Coalfields Limited, 13,326 persons were provided employment against land acquired up to June, 2005.

(b) and (c) Details of Villages, Tehsils, Districts where land has been acquired and jobs provided is given, area-wise, in the Statement attached.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.